

Assembly Bill No. 1802

CHAPTER 137

An act to amend Section 374.3 of the Penal Code, relating to illegal dumping.

[Approved by Governor July 13, 2004. Filed with
Secretary of State July 13, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1802, Bogh. Illegal dumping: penalties.

Existing law makes illegal specified acts relating to dumping waste matter, rocks, or dirt in certain locations without obtaining consent. Existing law requires that a person convicted of dumping waste matter in commercial quantities in violation of these provisions be punished by the imposition of a fine in an amount that varies based upon the person's previous convictions for this offense, as specified.

This bill would add asphalt and concrete to the material that may not be dumped in certain locations. It would increase the amounts of the fines imposed for dumping waste matter in commercial quantities, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 374.3 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

374.3. (a) It is unlawful to dump or cause to be dumped any waste matter in or upon any public or private highway or road, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or in or upon any private property into or upon which the public is admitted by easement or license, or upon any private property without the consent of the owner, or in or upon any public park or other public property other than property designated or set aside for that purpose by the governing board or body having charge of that property.

(b) It is unlawful to place, deposit, or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited, or dumped, any rocks, concrete, asphalt, or dirt in or upon any private highway or road, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or any private property, without the consent of the owner, or in or upon any public park or other public property, without the consent of the state or local agency having jurisdiction over the highway, road, or property.

(c) Any person violating this section is guilty of an infraction. Each day that waste placed, deposited, or dumped in violation of subdivision (a) or (b) of this section remains is a separate violation.

(d) This section does not restrict a private owner in the use of his or her own private property, unless the placing, depositing, or dumping of the waste matter on the property creates a public health and safety hazard, a public nuisance, or a fire hazard, as determined by a local health department, local fire department or district providing fire protection services, or the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in which case this section applies.

(e) A person convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished by a mandatory fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) upon a first conviction, by a mandatory fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) upon a second conviction, and by a mandatory fine of not less than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) upon a third or subsequent conviction. If the court finds that the waste matter placed, deposited, or dumped was used tires, the fine prescribed in this subdivision shall be doubled.

(f) The court may require, in addition to any fine imposed upon a conviction, that, as a condition of probation and in addition to any other condition of probation, a person convicted under this section remove, or pay the cost of removing, any waste matter which the convicted person dumped or caused to be dumped upon public or private property.

(g) Except when the court requires the convicted person to remove waste matter which he or she is responsible for dumping as a condition of probation, the court may, in addition to the fine imposed upon a conviction, require as a condition of probation, in addition to any other condition of probation, that any person convicted of a violation of this section pick up waste matter at a time and place within the jurisdiction of the court for not less than 12 hours.

(h) (1) Any person who places, deposits, or dumps, or causes to be placed, deposited, or dumped, waste matter in violation of this section in commercial quantities shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months and by a fine. The fine is mandatory and shall amount to not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) upon a first conviction, not less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) nor more than six thousand dollars (\$6,000) upon a second conviction, and not less than six thousand dollars (\$6,000) nor more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) upon a third or subsequent conviction.



(2) “Commercial quantities” means an amount of waste matter generated in the course of a trade, business, profession, or occupation, or an amount equal to or in excess of one cubic yard. This subdivision does not apply to the dumping of household waste at a person’s residence.

(i) For purposes of this section, “person” means an individual, trust, firm, partnership, joint stock company, joint venture, or corporation.

(j) Except in unusual cases where the interests of justice would be best served by waiving or reducing a fine, the minimum fines provided by this section shall not be waived or reduced.

